

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08695 050836Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3326

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 8695

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MU, IR

SUBJECT: SULTAN QABUS IN IRAN FOR PRIVATE VISIT

REFS: (A) MUSCAT 985; (B) TEHRAN 6750

1. SULTAN QABUS ARRIVED IN TEHRAN SEPTEMBER 1 FOR PRIVATE VISIT AND WENT DIRECTLY TO NOWSHAHR ON CASPIAN FOR AUDIENCE WITH SHAH. PRESS SPECULATED THAT LEADERS DISCUSSED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, IRANIAN TROOPS IN DHOFAR, AND PERSIAN GULD STABILITY.

2. MFA OFFICIAL IZADI WHO HANDLES OMANI AFFAIRS COMMENTED TO DCM THAT QABUS HAD ASKED FOR "EVERYTHING" IN TERMS OF AID, BUT COULD PROVIDE NO DETAILS. OMANI AMBASSADOR AL RASASI TOLD ACTING POLCONS VISIT HAD BEEN IN WORKS FOR SOME TIME. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED IN PARTY GOING TO NOWSHAHR BECAUSE VISIT WAS TOTALLY PRIVATE AFFAIR, AND DID NOT EVEN KNOW HOW LONG QABUS WOULD REMAIN IN IRAN, LET ALONE SUBJECTS WHICH QABUS MIGHT BE DISCUSSING.

3. BRITISH EMBASSY HAD REPORT FROM GOI SOURCE THAT QABUS COMING HERE TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL OF IRANIAN FORCES. BOTH BRITS AND WE REGARD THIS AS HIGHLY UNLIKELY DEVELOPMENT. IRANIANS RECENTLY LOST SIX MEN IN PLASTIC LAND MINE EXPLOSION, STRIKEMASTER WAS DOWNED PRESUMABLY BY SA-7 AND IT SEEMS MORE PROBABLE TO US THAT IRANIAN FORCES WILL BE INCREASED AS SHAH HAS PROMISED (REF B). UNLESS WE ARE POORLY INFORMED, ARAB CRITICISM OF IRANIAN MILITARY AID HAS BEEN MUTED RECENTLY WITH REGIONAL ATTENTION FOCUSED ON ARAB-ISRAEL

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ARENA. FOR VARIETY OF REASONS ARAB STATES SEEM DISINCLINED AT

PRESENT TO IRRITATE IRAN OVER OMAN.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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